

LEMBECK AND BETZ EAGLE BREWERY,
BOTTLING HOUSE AND STOREHOUSE
186-190 Ninth Street
Jersey City
Hudson County
New Jersey

HAER No. NJ-113-D

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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LOCATION: 186-190 Ninth Street, Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey. USGS Jersey City, NJ Quadrangle, UTM Coordinates: 18.580960.4508840

DATES OF CONSTRUCTION: 1904; altered 1920

BUILDER: Unknown

PRESENT OWNER: City of Jersey City, New Jersey

PRESENT USE: Vacant and abandoned storage buildings

SIGNIFICANCE: The Lembeck & Betz Eagle Brewery Bottling House and Storehouse is a representative example of late nineteenth-century industrial architecture associated with brewing.

PROJECT INFORMATION: The Lembeck & Betz Eagle Brewery Bottling House and Storehouse was recorded in October 1996 by the Cultural Resource Group of Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., East Orange, New Jersey, for the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency. The recordation was undertaken pursuant to the stipulations of the New Jersey Historic Sites Council Resolution No. 544-95, dated May 17, 1994, responding to the city of Jersey City's request to demolish the complex. Project personnel included Richard M. Casella, Senior Architectural Historian, and Rob Tucher, Senior Photographer.

DESCRIPTION

The Bottling House and Storehouse, built in 1904 (HAER No. NJ-113-D), is a three-story brick industrial building with a flat roof, stepped parapet, and brick foundation with basement. The building is located at 186-190 Ninth Street, separated from the Second Brew House (HAER No. NJ-11-B) on the east side by a narrow alley which originally carried a rail siding. The front facade is divided vertically into six bays by brick pilasters. The stepped parapet features recessed brick panels in each bay; the easternmost panel contains a name and date plaque which reads "1904". Around the date, the words "Bottling House" can be discerned from the shadow lines of the raised letters, which have been removed. A square brick elevator tower protrudes above the roof and parapet.

The Bottling House is joined to the Brew House by a one-story brick wing or connector at the front of the building and by a three-story wing at the rear of the building, which spanned the rail siding and provided a covered area for the unloading of coal and other commodities during the cold storage phase of operation. The walls of the rear wing are largely demolished, with only the supporting steelwork remaining. The sides and rear of the building are undistinguished, with all original window openings bricked up and later rectangular window openings placed randomly and devoid of sash.

Stylistically, the building mimics the other buildings within the complex, utilizing elements of classical detailing but to a less elaborate degree. The segmentally-arched window hoods are less heavily corbeled, for example, and the facade lacks decorative belt courses. The ground-floor facade is distinguished from the others in the complex by the use of cast-iron pillars to carry a steel header and separate seven large window and door bays which are now bricked closed.

Window openings, which have all been bricked closed, are identifiable by the segmentally-arched window heads which remain, one per bay. Rectangular windows with burglar bars are set in several of the bricked-in window openings on the first and second floors.

A concrete loading platform runs across the front of the building, extending out about 10 feet. A corrugated metal canopy extending over the platform is attached to the building at the second-floor level, hung with metal suspender rods and steel beams. Only a portion of the awning remains across the east section of the building.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In 1904, following the deaths of John Betz in 1901 and Henry Lembeck in 1903, the founders of the company, the company directors launched another expansion program. The new Bottling House and Storehouse was part of that expansion, along with the Lager Plant Addition (HAER No. NJ-113-E), which was added to the north side of the Lager Brew House. The Bottling Plant

operated as a semi-independent enterprise within the complex, along with the ice plant and the cooperage.

In 1920, with the imposition of Prohibition, the owners converted the building to a cold storage facility. As with the other buildings in the complex along Ninth Street, a metal awning was erected over a new concrete loading platform across the front of the building. Windows were closed in with brick, and a brick wall was erected between the building and the Original Brew House to close off the rail alley. Like the other converted brewery buildings, cork insulation was applied to many of the interior walls and covered with a cement-based plaster. The building, along with the others in the complex, was operated as the New Jersey Refrigeration Company and then as National Cold Storage until some time in the 1960s or 1970s, and has remained vacant since. The city of Jersey City acquired the building in 1979 through tax foreclosure.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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